

I am deeply concerned about the lack of critical reporting which seems to have plagued our media over the last four years. Television stations have fed us the press releases from the government, rather than engaging in investigative journalism. Without the accurate information that true journalism requires, the very values our country is built on--our citizens' right and responsibility to cast an informed vote--is gravely endangered.

The most recent example of this, Sinclair Broadcast Group's plan to air a program smearing Kerry disguised as a news documentary, is unconscionable.

Sinclair Broadcast Group's recent actions have illustrated the dangers to localism caused by media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.